

IN THE CLAIMS:

The present Amendment has been prepared in accordance with a revised format established by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, as permitted in the Pre-OG Notice entitled "Amendments in a Revised Format Now Permitted".

Please amend Claim 53, and add new Claim 59, to read as follows.

Dick G
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53. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus including an illuminating device adapted to illuminate an original and a photoelectric converting device adapted to effect photoelectric conversion on the light from the original, the illuminating device including a light conductive member for receiving light, the light conductive member comprising:

a light entrance face provided in at least a part of a first side that forms a longitudinal lateral face of a rod-shaped translucent member;

a first light reflecting and/or diffusing area provided on a second side opposed to said light entrance face and inclined relative to a light axis of the received light, said first light reflecting and/or diffusing area being adapted to reflect and/or diffuse the entering light within the translucent member; wherein said first light reflecting and/or diffusing area reflects and/or diffuses a portion of the incident light from said light entrance face and reflects and/or diffuses a portion of the incident light from said light entrance face toward a direction of the other side of said light entrance face; and

a light exit area adapted to emit at least a part of the light to the outside of the translucent member; and

a second light reflecting and/or diffusing area provided on the first side, said second light reflecting and/or diffusing area being adapted to reflect and/or diffuse the light

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~~to said light exit area and inclined with respect to a longitudinal axis of the translucent member.~~

55. (Previously Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 53, further comprising a light source that includes an LED.

56. (Previously Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 53, further comprising a light source that includes a plurality of light-emitting elements, each light-emitting element having different light emission wavelength ranges.

57. (Previously Added) An apparatus according to Claim 56, wherein said light source comprises LEDs.

58. (Previously Added) An apparatus according to Claim 53, further comprising a drive unit, said drive unit being adapted to shift a positional relationship between the original and the photoelectric converting device.

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59. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 53, further comprising a second light reflecting and/or diffusing area provided on the first side, said second light reflecting and/or diffusing area being adapted to reflect and/or diffuse the light to said light exit area and inclined with respect to a longitudinal axis of the translucent member.
